

Transition activities

When the Transition Sub-Committee began its work, we formulated two goals: to create and implement a series of transition activities that welcomed students into the middle school community and to find ways to begin uniting students from various schools into one new school

The Transitions Sub-Committee created several meaningful experiences to help ease the anxiety elementary students may feel as they enter into this new phase of their lives. A team of fifty “ambassadors” from sixth and seventh grade visited all the fourth and fifth grade students at their own school. These middle school ambassadors conducted a Morning Meeting during which they highlighted a few essential differences between elementary school and middle school.

The ambassadors also answered questions. Next, the students from the elementary schools visited the Sherwood Middle School for an orientation. One of the administrators and a counselor spoke to the incoming students about middle school and they answered questions. The elementary students were taken on tours of the building by the middle school ambassadors.

In order to include parents in the orientation experience, two nights of ice cream socials were planned at Sherwood Middle School. Self-guided tours were set up with student experts stationed at each destination. Between June 8th and 9th approximately 800 incoming students came to the ice cream socials.

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The evenings allowed students and their families to browse through the school and see a slide show in the computer lab, look at a selection of books on the summer reading list, and gather any necessary forms from the office and the nurse.

About fifty ambassadors played a key role in the success of both nights. They donated many hours of their time on two very hot and humid nights. Additionally, many parents were instrumental in organizing and running the transition events. Specifically, Mindy McKenzie-Hebert and Nancy Clennon were enormously helpful. The final phase of the transition plan will be implemented late in August.

Just before the first day of school, the Sherwood Middle School PTO will be hosting an open house. Students will be able to see their team rooms as well as the rest of the school.

Shrewsbury Public Schools’ notice of non-discrimination

The Shrewsbury Public Schools is required by the Massachusetts Department of Education to publish an annual statement of non-discrimination. This notice serves to meet that requirement.

The Massachusetts Equal Educational Opportunity statue, General Laws Chapter 76, & 5, ensures that all students have the right to equal educational opportunities in the public schools.

The Shrewsbury Public School District is committed to ensuring equal educational opportunities for all students, and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, sexual orientation or disability.

The Shrewsbury Public Schools is in compliance with all state and federal laws prohibiting discrimination and harassment.

The complete Statement of Non-discrimination can be obtained by contacting Superintendent’s Office of the Shrewsbury School Department at 100 Maple Avenue, Shrewsbury, MA 01545 or by calling 508-841-8400 to request a copy.

Shrewsbury extended school care

DANIELLE MURRAY
DIRECTOR OF EXTENDED SCHOOL CARE

Extended School Care strives to accommodate the childcare and enrichment needs of Shrewsbury students in kindergarten through eighth grade. Our purpose is to provide a safe, supervised environment rich with exciting activities and staffed by qualified childcare providers.

The program opens on the first day of school and is available only on days that school is in session. We do not provide care on snow days, professional days or during vacation weeks. However, care is available on early release day afternoons.

Before School Care Information

Before school care is offered at all four elementary schools and at Beal Early Childhood Center but not at Sherwood or Oak Middle Schools. The program opens at 7:00 a.m. and finishes at the start of the academic school day.

After School Care Information:

After school care is provided at all four elementary schools, at Beal Early Childhood Center, at Sherwood Middle School and at Oak Middle School. Children are dismissed to the program from the schools at the close of the school day (between approximately 2:20 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. depending on the school...coverage is

not offered during the day for the half-day kindergarten students). Care is provided until 6:00 p.m.

Limited Availability

Enrollment is limited and most of the programs have waiting lists. If you are interested in having your child’s name placed on the waiting list please call the director’s office at the number listed below.

Danielle Murray
Director of Extended School Care
Floral Street School
57 Floral Street
Shrewsbury, MA 01545
508-841-8727

Sherwood Middle School ready to open

DANIEL W. COSTELLO
SHERWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Sherwood Middle School is set and ready to open its doors for the first time for fifth and sixth graders on Tuesday, August 31. A great deal of planning and preparation has gone into this moment, and there is a great deal of excitement as we move forward. This promises to be a great year!

One of the most exciting aspects of opening Sherwood is welcoming so many new students to the building. Only the Floral Elementary School fifth graders have been at Sherwood. Each incoming fifth grade student, and three-quarters of the incoming sixth graders will be “new kids.”

All of Sherwood’s students will have an opportunity to shape and influence the school. The traditions and expectations that emerge this year will be felt by future students for many years.

In addition to the new students, we also have many new staff. In addition to myself as Principal, and Mrs. Riitta Bolton as Assistant Principal, we have several new teachers beginning this fall. Each year when Shrewsbury looks for new teachers, we always hope to obtain the most talented and most dedicated educators possible.

This year, Sherwood Middle School has done just that. Out of the dozens and dozens of applications that were received this spring, we were able to hire a very strong group of teachers. The new teachers who will greet your sons and daughters will be energetic and they will challenge all students to reach the highest standards.

We are most fortunate to have a solid core of veteran teachers to work with our new staff. The veteran teachers who are at Sherwood this fall all chose to be here. Early on in the process, teachers were surveyed and asked their preference for assignment for the 2004 – 2005 school year.

Some teachers chose to move to Oak Middle School with the seventh and eighth grade. Others chose to remain at their elementary school. So the teacher who is at Sherwood chose to be here and they will serve as the foundation of the school. Their experience will provide stability during this period of change.

Sherwood will be a unique middle school. We will combine the best features of excellent elementary education (structured, safe classrooms, hands-on learning, and the Responsive Classroom) with the best practices from the modern middle school (a team approach, cooperative learning strategies, and incorporation of the Allied Arts). Our primary goal is to be a developmentally appropriate place for fifth and sixth graders. This means providing a rigorous curriculum, providing support to meet social and academic challenges, with an eye to preparing students for success at Oak Middle School.

Sherwood encourages parent support and communication. We will keep open the lines of communication through all the means we have available. Our web page will be updated on a regular basis. In fact, we will have PTO information available throughout the year. Email updates will be available through the List-Serv feature (you can sign up with a valid email address on the Sherwood web page). Additionally, each team will have monthly newsletters available on the web site. We are looking for ways to keep you informed of what is going on. If you have suggestions, just let us know.

The Sherwood Administration is divided by grade level. Sixth graders have Fred Randall as Assistant Principal and Kelly O’Connell as Adjustment Counselor. Fifth grade students have Riitta Bolton as Assistant Principal and Leslie Wortzman as Adjustment Counselor. Please direct concerns to the appropriate staff during the year.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE HARLOW FAMILY COLLECTION

The number 8, Bigelow School on South Quinsigamond Avenue waits, frozen in time, for returning students. It was heated with a soap stone stove in the center of the classroom.